



## **Marine Debris Report – January 2006**

### **In this Issue:**

**California Coastal Commission Educates Public on Marine Debris**

**Main Hawaiian Island Removal Project Moves Forward**

**Honolulu Port Reception Press Conference Deemed a Success**

**Marine Debris in the News**

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### **California Coastal Commission Educates Public on Marine Debris**

The California Coastal Commission has created and distributed a document aimed at educating the public on “The Problem with Marine Debris”. The piece, aimed at kids and parents, highlights the impacts of plastic marine debris, entanglement, and even the way that trash becomes marine debris. It provides suggestions on how people can reduce and prevent marine debris from entering into the environment. To view the publication, visit [www.coastal.ca.gov/web/publiced/marinedebris.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/web/publiced/marinedebris.html)

### **Main Hawaiian Island Removal Project Moves Forward**

The Marine Debris program-funded “Marine Debris Location and Removal in the Main Hawaiian Islands and Vicinity” project is moving forward. All issues with permitting have been worked through and the aerial surveys of Kauai and Big Island will proceed in February 2006. Helicopter flights will take place at an altitude of greater than 1000ft. with surveys conducted by staff of NOAA PIFSC Coral Reef Ecosystem Division. This is to ensure that overflights do not infringe upon the distance allowed by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for proximity to Humpback Whales and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for proximity to Hawaiian Monk Seals, both protected species. Trainings for surveyors will be taking place in the next few weeks.

### **Honolulu Port Reception Press Conference Deemed a Success**

The "Honolulu Derelict Net Recycling Program," sponsored by the NOAA Marine Debris program and its partners, was launched at a press conference at Pier 38, Honolulu Harbor on Friday, January 13, 2006. This program highlights the private-public partnership formed to provide an environmentally friendly approach to derelict net and fishing gear disposal. The press event brought all of the 11 partners together to share in a

dedication ceremony for the new 31-cubic foot receptacle. The event received substantial local media coverage. For more information on this project, contact Carey Morishige at [cmorishi@hawaii.edu](mailto:cmorishi@hawaii.edu).

## Marine Debris in the News

### Honolulu Star Bulletin Highlights Human Impact on Coral Reefs

In a recent article on the threats to the delicate marine ecosystem of the coral reef by humans, the Honolulu Star Bulletin highlighted marine debris and derelict fishing gear as one of the most damaging effects to corals. Hawaii is home to more than 5,000 species of marine plants and animals, and many reef-building corals Northwest Hawaiian Islands are some of the most pristine reefs in the world. Not only do coral reefs provide food and shelter for many fish and invertebrates, they also buffer the islands from storms and create the break for waves, emphasizing the importance of this issue to the islands.

Among other threats to coral reefs besides marine debris are overfishing, pollution from land, fertilizer runoff, sewage, and climate change. To view the article, visit [www.starbulletin.com/2005/12/25/news/story06.html](http://www.starbulletin.com/2005/12/25/news/story06.html)

[Top](#)

### Divers in Florida Removing Marine Debris from Santa Rosa Sound

Divers affiliated with Childress Marine in Gulf Shores, AL have lately been braving chilly 53-degree waters to rid the sound of environmental hazards that occurred as a result of recent hurricanes. Crews have been working on this project since August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and have found over 25,000 items of debris, a number much larger than anticipated. The project, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is focusing on five areas covering around 5 square miles near Gulf Breeze, Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach. The removal does not include private canals, maintained channels or navigation ways. Crews in shallow water retrieve the items by hand, while divers are using side-scan sonar for deeper waters. To read more on this project, visit

[www.pensacolanewsjournal.com/apps/pCBS.dll/article?AID=/20051231/NEWS01/512310312/1006](http://www.pensacolanewsjournal.com/apps/pCBS.dll/article?AID=/20051231/NEWS01/512310312/1006)

[Top](#)

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This weekly report is distributed by NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration, Marine Debris program. Any questions, comments, or submissions should be sent to Megan Forbes at [Megan.Forbes@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Forbes@noaa.gov)

